MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER 13, 1937.

The third meeting of the Commission for the month of December, 1937, was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Monday, December 13, 1937. The following members were present:

Mr. Charles Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Morris,
Mr. Shepley,
Mr. [illegible],
also C. H. Cramer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a. m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting, held November 8, 1937, were approved.

2. SCULPTURE FOR THE APEX BUILDING: Under date of November 16, 1937, the following letter was received from Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent of the Section of Painting and Sculpture, Treasury Department, submitting photographs of a full sized model by Chain Gross for the Apex Building:

Dear Mr. Clarke:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, [illegible], approval was given to two sculptured relief models for the overdoor decoration of the Apex Building. Photographs of a third design in this series of four, to occupy a similar position in the building, have just been received in this office.

These represent the work of Mr. Chain Gross and I would appreciate your forwarding them to Mr. Manship, sculptor member of the Commission, for his comment and advice. This action will save time for the sculptor who is under contract and I assure you your courtesy will be greatly appreciated by this office.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting & Sculpture.

The photograph of the model was called to Mr. Manship's attention and upon his recommendation the Commission approved the model. (Exhibit A)

This sculpture [illegible] a scene from the Greek [illegible].

3. [illegible] was empowered by the Commission to proceed with work on the [illegible] panel, executed by Edwin Dodd, for the West Building. [illegible] the model, which was at the Avon Studio, and report [illegible] satisfactory. Upon his recommendation the Commission [illegible].

4. [illegible] the Secretary presented copies of the page proof of the [illegible] for consideration. Attention was called to the following sentence which had been rendered inconsistent in the proof: "For public school buildings, fire and police stations, and similar civic structures the colonial type of architecture has been adopted."

The Commission discussed the matter and Mr. Shipley recommended that the sentence be stricken out as in the margin, Architects should not be limited to a single style of architecture. Mr. Morris agreed with Mr. Shipley on this point. The sentence was therefore stricken from the page proof.

The Secretary called attention to the proof of the Smithsonian-Luce act law, which is to be included in the pamphlet. It was inspected by the Commission and approved.

There was some question about the reason for printing another pamphlet, whereupon Mr. Clarke said the purpose of it is to guide those who erect buildings in the area that comes under the provisions of the Act. One thousand copies will be printed.

Copies of the page proof were brought to the attention of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission in the afternoon at the joint meeting with that Commission. Representatives of the District of Columbia Government were also present and by all of these the pamphlet was well received.

Captain Cram, Chief of the Division of Subdivision and Zoning Control of the Zoning Commission, had a criticism to make regarding the size to which the advertising signs are limited. Under the Shipstead-Luce Act it is 10 square feet whereas the District Commissioners allow as much as 40 square feet on a building. The matter is receiving the special attention of the members of the Commission of Fine Arts.

5. AMENDING THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT: The Commission considered the question of amendment of the Shipstead-Luce Act in view of the fact that it will require additional park areas and circles, such as Meridian Hill Park, Dupont Circle and Scott Circle. The Secretary presented a memorandum on the subject, a copy of which had been sent to each member of the Commission. Mr. Cox called attention to the fact that recently the City of St. Louis had adopted an ordinance which provides that all plans for buildings adjacent to the parks of St. Louis must be submitted to the St. Louis Art Commission for criticism.

A letter was received from Mr. L. C. Hamlin, Executive Secretary of the American Institute of Architects, with an enclosure of a report for the year 1930 by Mr. Charles Cheney, Chairman of the Committee on City and Regional Planning of the American Institute of Architects, in which the following statement is made:

> In consideration of these projects, which will contribute so much to the dignity of the National Capital, I should like to renew the suggestion that the Fine Arts Commission should be required to pass upon private buildings which are proposed for sites facing upon public buildings and parks. Without such control much of the effort of the Congress in beautification of the Capital will be minimized.
>
> If the city of Washington is to express the soul of America, to become the true symbol of a great and rich nation, as Washington and Jefferson conceived it, and President Hoover and Secretary Mellon are so ably carrying on toward that end, it is necessary that architectural control be established over

all private buildings within the whole District of Columbia. To allow ugly and off-color or confusing structures in any part of the city is wrong in principle and will become increasingly abhorrent to the taxpayers of the rest of the country as they come to understand the situation. The jurisdiction of the Fine Arts Commission should be extended by the next Congress to the whole job.

The Commission considered the question of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission in the afternoon and it was decided that a committee of representatives of both Commissions should give this matter careful study. In this study Mr. Clarke will represent the Commission of Fine Arts and Professor Hubbard and Colonel Sultan the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

6. LANDSCAPE PLANS FOR THE GREAT PLAZA: Mr. Clarke called attention to a letter (Exhibit C) received from Hon. Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior Department, who is also Chairman of the President's Advisory Committee on public buildings in the District of Columbia, stating that the $500,000 estimate for development of the Great Plaza in the Triangle Area has been included in the estimates in connection with the future building program. The Commission were pleased to hear this and expressed the hope that the fund will be made available by Congress at the next session.

The Secretary reported that the Oscar Straus Memorial Association has applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for a permit which would enable them to begin the erection of the memorial in the Great Plaza along 14th Street. (Exhibit C-1)

The Procurement Division of the Treasury Department desires the development of the Great Plaza and the erection of the memorial to proceed simultaneously. The Treasury Department will pay for the 35-foot (approximately) excavation necessary for the foundations of the Oscar Straus Memorial.

Mr. Clarke called attention to the recent change made by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission in the approved plan for the Great Plaza

by allowing a parking space for 2000 automobiles. [illegible] to Mr. W. Adams Delano and to Professor [illegible] the matter was very [illegible] it would be unwise to allow some parking facilities [illegible] the Great Plaza be [illegible] for recreational purposes. [illegible] on the axis of the Washington Monument [illegible] Mr. Clarke said would be exceedingly important. [illegible] area is now being used [illegible] that the Treasury Department is willing to [illegible] done, as it is being [illegible]

Mr. Clarke recommended that the Commission reaffirm [illegible] 1930, at which time two plans were approved. All [illegible] agreed with Mr. Clarke in this matter. It was [illegible] parking of automobiles in the Great Plaza would be a necessary source of [illegible] tion for space on the part of those who would [illegible] in addition to being a serious [illegible] proper landscape development of the Great Plaza. The following [illegible] quoted:

> We reiterate our approval of the plan for the Great Plaza in the Triangle as prepared by the Bouche Group in the Procurement Division, which was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and in which plan there are no provisions for parking of automobiles.

At the afternoon session this matter was brought to the attention of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which Commission, after due consideration, decided to reconsider the former decision with regard to the parking of automobiles in the Great Plaza.

7. INSCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL [illegible] MEMORIAL: The J. F. [illegible] Co. presented a revised design for the full sized drawing of the inscription for the

full sized drawing of the inscription for the pedestal of the General Artemas Ward Statue, carrying out the recommendations of the Commission of Fine Arts, which were made at the meeting on November 6. The Commission felt the revised design to be an improvement over the previous design submitted and approved it. (Exhibit D)

8. REPORT ON THE PARKS AND LARGER CITIES OF SOUTH AMERICA: The Secretary brought to the attention of the Commission two volumes containing a report on the Parks and Larger Cities of South America by Malcolm Kirkpatrick, Resident Landscape Architect of the National Park Service, who visited South America in 1937. The Commission expressed its appreciation of this gift in a letter to Mr. Kirkpatrick. (Exhibit E)

9. THEODORE ROOSEVELT ISLAND: Mr. Clarke called attention to a copy of a report received from Mr. Olmsted, dated November 20, 1937, recommending certain improvements for Theodore Roosevelt Island that are to be made the basis of a plan. A copy of the report had been sent to each Member of the Commission. The Commission considered the report and approved it in principle with the exception of the suggestion that a caretaker's house be built on the island. This the Commission felt should not be built but that rather a shelter and provision for policing of the island would be better. The Commission concurred in the suggestion that a ferry be maintained between Columbia Island and Theodore Roosevelt Island. (Exhibit F)

10. DUPONT CIRCLE UNDERPASS: The Commission considered with Mr. Finnan and Mr. Kirkpatrick the plan for Dupont Circle Underpass. Attention was called to the importance of the location, since here is located the beautiful Dupont Memorial Fountain. Mr. Kirkpatrick reported that raising the fountain as recommended by the Commission of Fine Arts has aided in the design of the

underpass. The underpass will be 30 feet wide, providing for six lanes of traffic. The Commission advised that there should not be a 30 inch curbing that tends to obstruct the view of the footwalk.

Mr. Clarke said that because of the location, the entrance to the underpass should be carefully designed by the architect, and that he would discuss with the suggestion that a consulting architect be appointed by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to assist the Highway Department in the work.

The Commission thereupon adopted a resolution stating the Commissioners of the District of Columbia appoint a consulting architect.

During the afternoon session with the National Capital and Planning Commission a model for the underpass was presented. Mr. Clarke emphasized the importance of the appointment of a consulting architect and a report was made to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia recommending the appointment of a consulting architect for this work. (Exhibit C)

11. STATEMENT, APPLE TREE [illegible]: Mr. Finnan reported that he had received a letter from the Acting Comptroller General, informing him that there would be no objection on the part of that office to Mr. Friedlander and Mr. Fraser cancelling their old contracts and making new ones. (Exhibit D) The Commission were gratified to hear this.

Thereupon Mr. Finnan related his impressions of a conference with Mr. Fraser and Mr. Friedlander, at which the question of the use of Georgia marble was considered. Two samples of Georgia marble were submitted by Mr. Fraser, both of which were acceptable to the Commission and it was decided that Mr. Finnan could settle this question upon receipt of bills for the stone; also that

Mr. Finnan could settle this question as to whether the statuary should be carved here in Washington or at the quarry, since this is a purely administrative matter.

12. BRIGHTWOOD RESERVOIR SITE: Mr. Kirkpatrick brought to the attention of the Commission designs for developing the Brightwood Reservoir site at 16th and Kennedy Streets, N.W., into a recreational area. The plans involve demolishing the old reservoir and grading the area to be on a level with the north end of the grounds and 16th Street. The site comprises approximately 35 acres. Mr. Finnan said that it is proposed to use the grounds for tennis courts, baseball diamonds, football fields, etc. About $150,000 is available for this project out of Works Progress Administration funds so that the work can begin at once.

The Commission approved the grading plan but did not approve the plan for the location of the recreational features in the area. Mr. Clark requested a re-study of this area to effect a more ordered development of the recreational elements. He advised keeping the tennis courts and the parking space for automobiles at the edge of the grounds; the location of the field house should also be re-studied and this and the service buildings so placed that they will not be too conspicuous. A report was sent to Mr. Finnan. (Exhibit 1)

13. DIKE FOR POTOMAC PARK: The Commission considered a design submitted by Mr. Finnan and Mr. Kirkpatrick for the location of the dike in Potomac Park adjacent to the Monument Grounds to be built for flood control purposes. Mr. Kirkpatrick reported that the U. S. Engineers Office must keep to elevation 20 whereas the elevation of the grounds at present is 10-11 feet. The dike would slope gradually toward the War and Navy Building so that it would be only

2½ feet high at the Lincoln Memorial. The plan is to give protection to the public buildings along Constitution Avenue in case of high water. The Commission approved the plan and adopted the following resolution:

> Motion made, seconded, and passed that in order to the dike beginning at elevation 2 slope towards the Washington Monument to meet the Monument Grounds at this elevation, the crest continue west toward a point about midway between the center of the Navy Building and corresponding westward line parallel to Constitution Avenue where it will join contour 2 in the vicinity of 21st and 22nd Streets. This will provide flat slopes from Constitution Avenue to the crest of the dike and similarly flat slopes to the Mall. Seventeenth Street cuts through this dike and the slopes shown on the plans are satisfactory.
>
> It is understood and agreed that the temporary dike which now extends along the south side of the Navy and Munitions Building will be removed and placed in the position as heretofore described, approximately one-half the distance between the reflecting pool and Constitution Avenue.

The question of keeping tennis courts in Potomac Park was discussed. The Commission advised that they should be taken out when construction of the dike is started. A report was sent to Mr. Kimmel. (Exhibit J)

14. STATUE OF LIBERTY: Mr. Kilpatrick presented a general plan of development for the Statue of Liberty National Monument in New York City. Mr. Clarke explained features of the plan, saying that he and Mr. Tinn, Chief Architect of the National Park Service, visited the statue and inspected the grounds. Mr. Clarke said the island is now in an unsightly condition, caused primarily by the old army buildings on the shore and the concession buildings. Also the old dock where the ferry boat lands juts out into the water rather conspicuously. Mr. Clarke said he concurred in the site shown in the plan for relocating the dock. Near this main dock is to be an administration building including offices, a museum and a dispensary. There is also shown a site for a concessions building with space for serving meals out of doors. There will be an open plaza on the main axis as an approach to the statue. The entrance

to the fort will be on the main axis and the entrance steps are to be tied in with the wall of the fort. [illegible] also suggested keeping the [illegible] trees clipped off to the level of the fort so that their rugged trunks will not dominate the vista as one leaves the island. It was suggested that it would be opportune to carry out this project to coincide with the New York World's Fair in 1939. (Exhibit F)

15. SMITHSONIAN BUILDING: Mr. Horle said that he would like to offer a resolution concerning a proposed Smithsonian Gallery of Art which will house the collections of the old National Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, now called the National Collection of Fine Arts, at the Capitol. He said that such a similar gallery was suggested in the bill introduced by Senator Walsh for a National Portrait Gallery.

Mr. Horle pointed out that he considered it advisable to take as a location for the new gallery the site directly on the south side of the mall opposite the National Gallery of Art, which is now being built between Fourth and Seventh Streets on the north side of the Mall. Mr. Horle considered that locations on the south side of the Mall as being far better than the one heretofore considered for the gallery in the square between 14th and 15th Streets along Constitution Avenue immediately west of the National Museum building.

The Commission discussed the matter and agreed with Mr. Horle in his suggestion. Mr. Horle read the following resolution, which was accepted by the Commission:

> Whereas the Joint Resolution S. J. Res. 77, introduced by Senator Walsh in the Senate, March 1, 1937, referring to the setting apart of public ground for the Smithsonian Gallery of Art and for other purposes, has been brought to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts.
>
> The Commission of Fine Arts recommend that a site on the south side of the Mall between 4th and 7th streets, Independence Avenue

and Sand[illegible] Drive is preferable to the site called for in the joint resolution.

It is further recommended that a meeting of the Commission be called in accordance with the terms of the joint resolution on Public Works, American Institute of Architects, and the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department, [illegible], D.C.

A letter was sent to Mr. Frederic A. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and a copy thereof to Dr. Abbot, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; [illegible] C. A. Ober, Base Line Observatory, and to Mr. Francis D. Sullivan, Chairman of the Committee on Public Works, of the American Institute of Architects.

16. [illegible] : A. Brown and Edgar four Statutes, three of which were on loan, by Senator [illegible] pictings in the Interior Department Auditorium, [illegible] reforestation, [illegible]. The Secretary presented Mr. Powell inscribed [illegible].

Mr. Powell, who was [illegible] on account of illness, called [illegible] and submitted a report [illegible].

17. [illegible]: The Secretary reported that on June [illegible] he had attended a meeting of the committee on the Diamond [illegible] theme of the New York World's Fair and that the committee endorsed the suggestion for a governmental National Capital exhibit; and that this matter was brought to the attention of the Chairman of the World's Fair Commission by Mr. Frederic A. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, with whom he [illegible] would cooperate in this matter. (Exhibit [illegible])

19. GOLD MEDAL FOR GEORGE M. COHAN : Under date of December 10, 1940, the following letter was received from the Director of the Mint, submitting sketches by Erwin Springweiler for a gold medal that has been authorized by Congress:

Dear Sir:

The Act of June 9, 1940, authorizes the President to present a gold medal to George M. Cohan. The inclosed sketches have been submitted by Mr. Erwin Springweiler. I am forwarding the sketches with the request that you give this Bureau the benefit of your judgment as to the relative merits of the designs.

I am also inclosing copy of a letter addressed by me to Mr. Springweiler under date of November 12th. This letter is self-explanatory. The design to which I refer is marked No. 1. Nos. 2 and 3 have recently been submitted in response to this letter, a copy of which is inclosed.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Nellie Taylor Ross,
Director of the Mint.

Mr. Manship inspected the sketches and recommended that the design marked "2" be taken for the relief, with the legend shown on the design "1". This was agreed to by the Commission and a report was sent to the Director of the Mint accordingly. (Exhibit C)

19. [illegible] : Mr. Torrie asked that the members of the Commission be informed of the dates of expiration of their respective terms of office. The Secretary gave these, as follows:

Mr. Charles Moore, December 17, 1941.
Mr. Charles L. Torrie, Jr., February 15, 1942.
Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, April 17, 1940.
Mr. Henry D. Cheever, April 27, 1940.
Mr. H. P. Lay, January 17, 1941.
Mr. Paul Manship, January 21, 1941.
Mr. Eugene L. Savage, January 25, 1941.

In connection with the above it should be noted that the Organic Act of May 17, 1910, creating the Commission of Fine Arts by Congress, provides that each member "shall serve for a period of four years each, and until their successors are appointed and qualified. . . ."

A copy of the Minutes of the joint session with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission during the afternoon will be sent to each member of the Commission.

The Commission adjourned at 5:00 p. m.

January 17, 1938.

My dear Mr. Borie:

In the matter of the Minutes for the meeting of the Commission on December 16th (page 12), I think possibly the apparent discrepancy is due to the fact that you consider the date shown on your commission issued by the Department of State as the date appointment and also the date you became a member of the Commission of Fine Arts. As a matter of fact the State Department takes the date you took the Oath of Office as the beginning of your term of membership on the Commission. We have followed this rule. The date you took the Oath of Office was February 17, 1936, which makes the expiration of your four-year term February 16, 1940, as shown in the Minutes.

If you have any further question concerning this matter, would you please let me know?

Sincerely yours,

Secretary.

Mr. C. L. Borie, Jr.,
17th and Sansom Streets,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. C. L. Borie, Jr.,
17th and Sansom Streets,
Philadelphia, Pa.

December 1r, 1937.

Dear Mr. Reese:

The Treasury Section of Fine Arts have given consideration to the photographs submitted with your letter of November 11, of the sculptured relief model by Ervin Evans to be placed on the Apex Building.

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Edward Bruce, Chief, Section of Fine Arts, approval of the model,

[illegible]

Very truly yours,

[illegible]

Director.

Mr. Edward S. Reese, Chief Attorney,
Section of Claims and Collections,
Procurement Department,
Washington, D. C.

December 21, 1937.

Dear Mr. Bowman:

During the meeting of the Commission on December 16th, Mr. Paul Manship, sculptor member of the Commission, inspected the model for a sculptural relief by Robert Laurent at the Arts Building. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Manship, the Commission approved the model.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

DEC -7 1937

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman, The Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Clarke:

I have received your letter of November 11, with attached copy of a letter of May 12, 1936, from President Roosevelt to Mr. Charles Moore of your Commission, regarding the inclusion of estimates for the completion of the Great Plaza in the Triangle Area. This is one of the items, in the amount of $500,000, which had been included in the estimates given to the President's Committee for consideration in connection with the future building program. Your letter is being referred to the National Park Service with instructions to give the item the necessary attention.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior
and
Administrator of Public Works.

NORARY PRESIDENT
HERBERT HOOVER

ESIDENT
WILLIAM LOEB

VICE-PRESIDENTS
ALFRED A. COOK
HENRY MORGENTHAU

SECRETARY
DAVID HINSHAW

TREASURER
ARCHIBALD B. ROOSEVELT

Oscar S. Straus Memorial Association, Inc.

120 Broadway, New York
(Room 3414)

TELEPHONE
CTOR 2-9740

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EN D. YOUNG

November 19, 1937.

Mr. H. P. Caemerer, Secretary,
Fine Arts Commission,
New Interior Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemerer:

I attach copy of letter being sent under this date to the Secretary of the Treasury.

I will let you know what happens.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID HINSHAW

David Hinshaw

Secretary.

CEIVED
...N OF FINE ARTS
...N, D. C.
NOV 22 1937
NOTED:.....

November 19, 1937.

Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Application is hereby made for a permit to begin construction of a memorial to the Hon. Oscar S. Straus in the Ellipse opposite and across 14th Street from the Department of Commerce Building.

This memorial was provided for in Public Resolution No. 100 of the Seventieth Congress, Approved March 2nd, 1929. All of its conditions have been complied with by the Oscar S. Straus Memorial Association, Inc., which organization now stands ready to proceed with the construction of the officially approved design as soon as the Government clears the designated site. Officials estimate that a space 300 feet along 14th Street by 250 feet deep will need be set aside for our construction purposes before the work can begin.

Should the permit herein applied for be granted our work could proceed in cooperation with that of the Government in embellishing the Ellipse, and in this undertaking we are confident the expenditures of the Oscar S. Straus Memorial Association, Inc., will result in substantial savings to the Government.

Respectfully yours,

OSCAR S. STRAUS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
David Hinshaw

Secretary

December 17, 1937.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 16, 1937, approved the revised design submitted for the inscription to be carved on the pediment of the General Accounting Office.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. J. T. Dunlop, Jr.,
1722 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

December 22, 1937.

My dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts wish to thank you for your two-volume report on The Parks and Larger Plazas of South America, which you have called to its attention.

The report sets forth in a remarkably interesting way the progress that South American countries are making in city planning; also the steps to be taken to safeguard their interest in preserving the fine arts resources of those countries.

The reports will be valuable for reference in connection with the work of the Commission.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Malcolm Kirkpatrick,
Resident Landscape Architect,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

December 7, 1937.

Dear Mr. Finnan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 1, 1937, considered the report by Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted, dated November 30, 1937, on the general plan for developing Theodore Roosevelt Island.

The Commission approves the report with the recommendation that no caretakers quarters be built on the island. The Commission feel that by building a shelter and providing proper policing the island can be sufficiently protected.

The Commission favor the suggestion that a ferry be maintained between Columbia Island and Theodore Roosevelt Island.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. C. Marshall Finnan,
Superintendent,
National Capital Parks,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

December 22, 1937.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 15, 1937, inspected with interest the model for Dupont Circle underpass. Certain details of the model were discussed at a joint meeting with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The Commission of Fine Arts are particularly concerned over the aesthetic appearance of the underpass and wish to stress the importance of having the advice of a consulting architect of the highest caliber in connection with the project to make a proper design for the portal and various details. It is a work that will require continuous attention on the part of the architect.

The members of the Commission have a particular interest in the appearance of the underpass in view of its relations to the Dupont Memorial Fountain, which is one of the most beautiful monuments in Washington.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

The Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON

November 30, 1937.

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

Your letter of November 20, 1937, is as follows:

"The former Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, pursuant to the authority contained in the Act approved February 24, 1925, 43 Stat., 974, entered into contracts No. AMB 57 and AMB 58, with Messrs. James E. Fraser and Leo Friedlander, respectively, for the design, erection and carving of the equestrian groups for the Arlington Memorial Bridge project, Washington, D. C.

"The contracts required completion as indicated by Paragraph 14, quoted below:

"'14. TIME FOR COMPLETION.-The time for the completion of the several parts of the work shall be as follows, the date of the beginning of the contract referred to below being the date of receipt by the Sculptor of the notification of the signing of the contract by the Contracting Officer:

"'The 3/16th actual size models referred to in Paragraph 8 above shall be completed within fourteen (14) calendar months after the date of the beginning of the contract,

"'The 1/2 actual size models for stone carvers' use referred to in paragraph 8 above shall be completed within twenty-six (26) calendar months after the date of the beginning of the contract:

"'The furnishing and setting of the granite blocks ready for carving shall be completed within thirty (30) calendar months after the date of the beginning of the contract: and

"'The carving and final completion of the carved groups shall be completed within forty (40) calendar months after the date of the beginning of the contract.'

"It will be noted that each contract is divided into four (4) sub-divisions extending over a period of forty (40) months. Work operations were required to begin on August 5, 1931, making the date of completion December 4, 1934. Subsequent to the execution of these

Sir:

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Department,

Your letter of November 2nd, 19[illegible], is in reference

"The former Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, pursuant to the authority contained in the [illegible] Chapter 534, 42 Stat., 374, entered into contract No. [illegible] and [illegible] with Messrs. James M. Fraser and Leo Hrdlanick, respectively, for the design, erection and carving of the [illegible] groups for the Lee Memorial Bridge project, Washington, D. C.

"The contracts required completion [illegible] indicated quoted below:

"'14. TIME OF COMPLETION.--The time for the completion of the several parts of the work shall be as follows, the date of the beginning of the contract referred to below being the date of receipt by the Contractor of the notification on the finding of the Comptroller of the Treasury of the approval of the contract:

"'The 3/[illegible] group mentioned in Paragraph 3 above shall be completed within [illegible] (14) calendar months after the date of the beginning of the contract.

"'The 1/2 actual size models for stone carvers' use required in paragraph 3 above shall be completed within twenty-six (26) calendar months after the date of the beginning of the contract.

"'The furnishing and fixing of the [illegible] shall be completed within [illegible] (30) calendar months after the date of the beginning of the contract: and

"'The carving and final completion of the [illegible] groups shall be completed within forty (40) calendar months after the date of the beginning of the contract.'

"It will be noted that each contract is divided into four (4) sub-divisions [illegible] to begin on August 8, 1924. [illegible] operations were required to be completed on or [illegible] of completion December 4, 1924. [illegible] to the execution of [illegible]

contracts the work to be performed was delayed by the Government from time to time as indicated below:

"'April 8, 1932 - Contractors notified to stop all contract operations due to the fact that Congress eliminated the entire Arlington Memorial Bridge appropriation.

"July 8, 1932 - Contractors authorized to resume work on the 3/16th size models only.

"March 21, 1933 - Appropriations for AMB project impounded by the President.

"February 14, 1934 - Contractors authorized to proceed with the 1/2 size models.

"Under date of August 25, 1936, the contractors were advised that the Budget Bureau had released sufficient funds for the completion of their contracts and they were requested to proceed with the remaining items of work, which included the furnishings and setting of the granite, carving and final completion. The 3/16th and 1/2 size models have been completed and accepted. After a period of several months had lapsed, Mr. Friedlander personally notified the National Park Service that due to the long delay, the cost necessary to complete the project had greatly increased and requested that original sum agreed upon for this portion of the project be increased by an additional $25,000. Mr. Fraser also notified the Department of the increased cost. Mr. Friedlander requested that his contract be amended to provide for payment of the additional amount. No work has been performed by either contractor under the authorization of August 25, 1936. The contracts are essentially for professional services of an artistic nature, and the Department desires to have the projects carried to completion under the personal supervision of Mr. Fraser and Mr. Friedlander. This Department is now anxious to effect such arrangements as may be necessary to insure early completion of the contracts.

"In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that you advise whether this Department is authorized to increase the compensation to be paid under these contracts in the amount of $25,000 each, or whether the contracts can be terminated and new agreements in amounts sufficient to include the requested $25,000 increases entered into with Messrs. Friedlander and Fraser to cover the completion of the work."

In view of the long delay in this case due to causes over which the contractors not only had no control, but which are directly attributable to the Government this office will not be required to object--all parties agreeing--to the termination of the old contracts

contracts the work to be performed was delayed [illegible]
time to time as indicated below:

"April 8, 1932 - Interim steps relating to [illegible]
plans due to the fact that Congress eliminated the entire item
Memorial Bridge appropriation.

"July 6, 1932 - Conversations [illegible]
3/16th size models only.

"March 31, 1933 - Approximations for [illegible]
the President.

"February 14, 1934 - Conference [illegible]
1/8 size models.

"Under date of March 22, 1934, the Commissioners [illegible]
the Budget Bureau had relocated funds for [illegible]
their contracts and they were requested to proceed [illegible]
items of work, which included the Fundulea and Lewisville
carving and final completion. The 1/4th and 1/8 size models have been
completed and approved. Please be advised that [illegible]
Mr. Friedlander personally [illegible] and advise that due to
the long delay, he [illegible] to complete the project [illegible]
increased and [illegible] proposed that for this [illegible]
of the project be [illegible] $25,000. Mr. Brown [illegible]
notified the Department of the increased cost. Mr. Julius Hoover [illegible]
that his contract be amended to provide for payment of this [illegible]
amount. No work has been performed by either contractor under the amend-
atory of August 24, 1934. The contracts are satisfactory for [illegible]
services of an artistic nature, and the Department desires to have the
projects carried to completion under the present [illegible] of Mr.
Fraser and Mr. Friedlander. This department is not [illegible] to effect
such arrangements as may be necessary to insure a fully completed [illegible]
contracts.

"In view of the above, it is respectfully [illegible]
whether this Department is authorized to increase the amount to be
paid under these contracts in the amount of $25,000.00, or whether the
contracts can be terminated and performed in [illegible] satisfactory
manner [illegible] $15,000 increase allowed [illegible]
Friedlander and Mr. Fraser to [illegible]."

In view of the long [illegible] was due to [illegible]

the contractor not [illegible], and which [illegible]

available to the Government this [illegible]

objects--all pertain [illegible] the termination of the said [illegible]

and the entering into new agreements with the respective contractors for the unfinished work at such cost as present conditions and circumstances may warrant. Whether or not there should be an increase of as much as $25,000 in each case over and above the amount provided for in the original contracts is a matter primarily for the determination by the administrative office upon such evidence of increased costs as the contractors may submit.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) R. N. Elliott
Acting Comptroller General
of the United States.

December 20, 1937.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 17, 1937, approved the grading plan which has been submitted for the Brightwood Reservoir area at 16th and Quincy Streets. The Commission noted that this includes [illegible] the old reservoirs at the site.

The Commission advise that a re-study be made on the plan of development of the area in accordance with the suggestions made at the meeting.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. A. E. Cammerer,
Director,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT I

December 28, 1937.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 15, 1937, approved the location plan which you submitted for the dike to be built in Potomac Park as part of the flood control program of the U. S. Engineers Office. The Commission adopted the following resolution:

> Motion made, seconded, and passed that the center of the dike beginning at elevation 22 slope towards the Washington Monument to meet the Monument ground at the same elevation, the crest continuing west toward a point about opposite the center of the Navy Building and then veering westerly parallel to Constitution Avenue where it will join contour 20 in the vicinity of 21st and 22nd streets. This will provide flat slopes from Constitution Avenue to the crest of the dike and similarly flat slopes to the Mall. Seventeenth Street cuts through this dike and the slopes shown on the plan are satisfactory.
>
> It is understood and agreed that the temporary fill which now extends along the south side of the Navy and Munitions Building will be removed and placed in the position heretofore described, approximately one-half the distance between the reflecting pool and Constitution Avenue.

The Commission understand that your office will cooperate with the U. S. Engineers Office and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission in carrying out this project.

The Commission recommend that when the construction of the dike is started the tennis courts along 17th Street be removed from their present site in the Monument Grounds so as to effect appropriate flat slopes in the dike.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. A. B. Cammerer, Director,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT J

COPY

December 2, 1937.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 1st, 1937, approved the general plan presented by your office for improving the grounds adjacent to the Statue of Liberty in New York City, with certain modifications shown in red on the attached blue print, which are aimed to simplify the development and reduce the cost.

The Commission would be pleased to go over the architectural and other details for this development when they are carried further along, if that is your desire.

I may add that about two weeks ago I went over the grounds personally with Mr. [illegible] of the National Park Service and the comments shown on the attached print are concurred in by those gentlemen.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Edward [illegible] Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. A. E. Cammerer, Director,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

COPY

[illegible]
[illegible]

December 27, 1938.

Hon. Frederick A. Delano,
National Capital Park and Planning Commission,
[illegible] Interior Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Delano:

At the last meeting of the Commission in Fine Arts, on December 14th, the matter of a bill under consideration calling for a gallery of art to be known as the Smithsonian Gallery of Art was discussed. It is my understanding that such a gallery will provide space for paintings, sculpture, and other works of art now in the National Collection of Fine Arts.

The question of an appropriate site for such gallery was discussed at some length, and while the matter of the bill as referred to us may not obtain for some time, nevertheless it appears to be desirable that the two Commissions, the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, agree upon a suitable site on the Mall.

The Commission is quite [illegible] to this proposal concerning this gallery. That part of the Mall between Independence Avenue, [illegible] directly opposite the west end of the new National Gallery of Art, now being erected, is [illegible] suited, all things being considered. Such location would place the two galleries of art in close proximity to the Smithsonian, would provide an opportunity to establish a large [illegible] area on the south side of the Mall, thus [illegible] the embellishment along Independence Avenue as well as along [illegible] side of the Mall itself.

The Commission stressed the importance of considering a problem of national reputation in connection with a [illegible] agreement between the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department and the American Institute of Architects.

It seemed desirable at this time to present this matter to you that you may be acquainted with the [illegible] the Commission of Fine Arts with respect to the proposed Smithsonian Gallery of Art. At your [illegible], I would be pleased to discuss the matter with you more fully.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

[illegible]

C O P Y

December 28, 1927.

Dear Dr. Abbot:

Attached hereto is a copy of a letter which we have sent to Mr. Frederic A. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, concerning the proposed Smithsonian Gallery of Art. As you know, this matter has received the careful attention of Mr. C. L. Borie, who is a member of the Commission on Fine Arts, and the Commission recently acted in accordance with the suggestions made by him, which are embodied in the letter.

In this letter the Commission has also called to Mr. Delano's attention the matter of location recommended by the Smithsonian Gallery of Art, namely on the south side of the Mall, opposite the National Gallery of Art, which is now being built; and also the importance of commissioning an architect of national reputation to design the building after Congress has given its approval to the project. We hope these recommendations will commend themselves to you.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Architect.

Dr. C. G. Abbot, Secretary,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.

UNITED STATES
NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR COMMISSION
EMPIRE STATE BUILDING
NEW YORK, N. Y.

December 7, 1937

'ARD J. FLYNN
S. COMMISSIONER GENERAL

ODORE T. HAYES
(ECUTIVE ASS'T U. S. COMMISSIONER

ARLES M. SPOFFORD
SSISTANT U. S. COMMISSIONER

TELEPHONE
WISCONSIN 7-3226, 7, 8

UNITED STATES
NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR COMMISSION
HENRY A. WALLACE, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, CHAIRMAN
DANIEL C. ROPER, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
FRANCES PERKINS, SECRETARY OF LABOR
ROBERT F. WAGNER, U. S. SENATOR, N. Y.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., U. S. SENATOR, MAINE
ROYAL S. COPELAND, U. S. SENATOR, N. Y.
JAMES W. WADSWORTH, JR., U. S. REPRESENTATIVE, N. Y.
SAM D. McREYNOLDS, U. S. REPRESENTATIVE, TENN.
MATTHEW J. MERRITT, U. S. REPRESENTATIVE, N. Y.

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary
Commission of Fine Arts
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

At a meeting of Department representatives held on November 22, 1937, it was explained that the method of presentation of Government functions was to be on a line of themes, twelve in number. Of this twelve, number nine is known as "Education, Arts and Recreation."

There will be a meeting of the Committee on the "Education, Arts and Recreation" theme at 10:00 A. M. Saturday, December 11, in the office of Mr. C. W. Mitman, Head Curator, Department of Arts and Industries, U. S. National Museum, located in the Northeast corner of the Arts and Industries Building. It is requested that you or a competent representative from your activity be present at this meeting for the purpose of determining upon the subject matter and proper presentation of such material most appropriate to give a clear picture of the functions of your activity under the designated theme.

Very truly yours,

Theodore T. Hayes

Theodore T. Hayes
Executive Ass't U. S. Commissioner

M

[illegible],
[illegible] Commission,
[illegible],
[illegible], D. C.

October 7, 1937.

My dear [illegible],

[illegible] act of [illegible] it [illegible] to [illegible]. [illegible], its [illegible] for [illegible] the Govern-[illegible] of it [illegible] role.

[illegible] is [illegible] with the preservation of [illegible] and [illegible] Mall, to feel that [illegible] human [illegible] [illegible] vital function that [illegible] Washington has [illegible] functional advance [illegible] directed in the development of the city, which is [illegible] for its [illegible].

[illegible] is [illegible] capital has been [illegible] Government [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible]. [illegible] unrelated [illegible] to [illegible] adequately [illegible] national [illegible].

[illegible] desire to [illegible] [illegible] extension of [illegible] at present, [illegible] development of the national capital [illegible]. For example, [illegible] been [illegible] constructed covering [illegible] radius [illegible].

[illegible] would [illegible] to be suitable to [illegible], [illegible] that the Commission must have [illegible] employment of experts qualified through experience and knowledge of the subject to design and construct this exhibit. [illegible] may do we feel we can [illegible] better than ever before.

Sincerely yours,

[illegible],
[illegible].

December 17, 1937.

Dear Mrs. Ross:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting yesterday received the sketches by Mr. Erwin Springweiler for a gold medal to George [illegible]. Cohan, which you submitted with your letter of the 15th. The sketches were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Paul Manship, sculptor member of the Commission.

Mr. Manship recommends acceptance of the design marked No. 2, with the legend of design No. 1. Also Mr. Manship suggests treating the stars in back with the flag so that they will be in harmony with it. It is suggested that a revised design embodying these criticisms be submitted.

For the Commission of Fine Arts.

Very respectfully, yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Nellie Tayloe Ross,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

The Commission recessed for lunch from 1:10 to 2 p.m., and then reconvened for a joint meeting with the Commission of Fine Arts.

The following members of the Park and Planning Commission were present:

MR. F. A. DELANO, Chairman.
MR. CAMMERER, Vice Chairman.
COL. ADKINS.
COL. SULTAN. (CAPT. TANSEY represented COL. SULTAN until his arrival).
MR. KYLIE.
MR. NICHOLS.
MR. W. A. DELANO.
MR. HUBBARD.

The following members of the Commission of Fine Arts were present:

MAJ. GILMORE CLARK, Chairman.
MR. BORIE.
MR. SHEPLEY.
MR. MANSHIP.
MR. CAEMMERER, Secretary.

33. Flood Control Dike:

MR. NOLEN read to the Commission the following letter from the U. S. Engineer Office:

"December 15, 1937.

"Subject: Potomac Park Flood Protection Levee.

To: National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Washington, D. C.

1. There were presented to the Staff of the Commission last week two drawings showing location for the proposed Potomac Park flood protection levee covering that section located on the Monument grounds east of 17th Street.

2. It is urgently requested that the Commission take final action as to the location for this levee at its meeting to be held December 16 and 17. The matter has been before the Commission on several occasions in the past, and a few months ago when I appeared before the Commission to explain the features of the project. The need for expediting the matter lies in the fact that funds are now available in this office to initiate the work immediately if a decision can be had in the matter. A further circumstance is that approximately 50% of the funds are for emergency relief, and it is the desire of the Department to fulfill its obligation in employing relief labor.

3. This office is not much concerned as to where the levee is located, but only in its finally approved location. The Coordinating Committee has made a recommendation on this project.

(Sgd) W. D. Luplow,
Major, Corps of Engineers,
District Engineer."

The Coordinating Committee has recommended that the dike be located in the Monument Grounds, as desired by the Park Office, because of its temporary nature, and because it will facilitate operation of the tennis courts.

MAJ. CLARKE stated that if the Commission would agree to the plan developed by MR. JEFFERS, and explained to them by MR. KIRKPATRICK, the Fine Arts Commission is prepared to proceed on that recommendation. The Commission of Fine Arts advocated completing the grading and eliminating the tennis courts, and hopes that they might be located elsewhere. Plan bearing File No. 1.7-91 meets with the approval of that Commission.

MR. HUBBARD stated he believed that that would be about the opinion of this Commission.

Discussion included removal of the tennis courts and provision for other courts, and that the new location of any tennis courts should be included in the Commission's recommendation; that the tennis courts might be removed to the proposed recreation area east of the railroad embankment in Potomac Park.

MOTION unanimously carried that the Commission approves plan bearing File No. 1.7-91 for the flood control dike, with the recommendation that the tennis courts should be removed.

34. Columbia Island Plaza and Lee Boulevard Connection:

MR. FINNAN reported that his office had been doing considerable work in grading the north end of Columbia Island with CCC labor; that the plans call for a parking space at the upper end of the island where 244 cars can be accommodated. Funds have been allocated to the Bureau of Public Roads to build the connection between Columbia Island and the Lee Boulevard terminus at the Rosslyn-Alexandria Pike. A temporary timber bridge has been built across Columbia Island. The contractor is now building an overpass over the railroad tracks and the roadway is being constructed. By this coming Spring, the Bureau of Public Roads will complete the Lee Boulevard connection. It is his understanding that the State of Virginia will complete its work within the next month. The Bureau of Public Roads will proceed immediately after bids are submitted and awards made to complete the fill up to the power house in Rosslyn and carry the George Washington Memorial Parkway road into the Rosslyn plaza, and is proceeding to surface the road along the shore. The third project will be for grading and surfacing the upper parkway road. $342,000 has been allocated to cover the construction of the Lee Boulevard connection and the parkway roads to the Rosslyn plaza. Any balance remaining will be used on the underpass and extra span of Key Bridge.

Discussion included the question of whether the parking area and other phases of the Columbia Island plan are being carried out. whether the Park Service should proceed on the assumption that the street cars will continue to operate over Key Bridge and terminate in Rosslyn; type of connection to Roosevelt Island; design of walls, walks and other exterior features of main plaza.

MOTION unanimously carried that the Columbia Island plans be restudied so that when the roadway construction is started, it will be presumed to be a final decision as to just what plaza plan will be fitted.

35. Roosevelt Island Plans:

MR. NOLEN submitted MR. OLMSTED'S report on this subject, attached as APPENDIX C.

MAJ. CLARKE stated that the Fine Arts Commission has read the report and concurs in it, except that while it is probably not within the realm of its duty, the Fine Arts Commission expresses the hope that a Superintendent's house will not be incorporated in the plans for the Island. MR. CAMMERER'S office is in accord with this recommendation.

MR. NOLEN stated that under the law, the Commission is required to approve the development plans for the Island. The report was not transmitted to the Commission members, because copies were received only this week.

The Chairman suggested that the matter be passed over until the following day, to give the Commission an opportunity to study the report.

COL. SULTAN joined the meeting at this point.

36. Dupont Circle Underpass:

CAPT. WHITEHURST, Director of Highways of the District, explained the details of the model and plans for the Dupont Circle underpass and redesign.

Discussion included the Fine Arts Commission's interest in the design of the retaining walls and portals, in that they should be as simple as possible; that considerable money can be saved if rigid frame construction is adopted; the clearance above the tunnel; the Fine Arts Commission's recommendation that the fountain be raised about 18 inches so that it can be more readily seen.

MOTION unanimously carried that plan bearing File No. 21-157 for the Dupont Circle underpass and redesign be approved in principle.

37. New York World's Fair:

MR. NOLEN reported that the New York World's Fair authorities have developed 12 themes for the Government exhibits that do not lend themselves to a comprehensive and proper exhibit of the National Capital, although designed to represent all the activities of the Government. The Commission's exhibit on the National Capital is proposed to be included under the exhibit of Education, Arts and Recreation.

MR. PARTRIDGE attended a meeting called by representatives of the New York Fair, and it appears to him that there will be no allotments to any Government departments, that the work will be done in New York under prepared specifications and contracts, and that the departments would merely cooperate by supplying them with information.

MR. PARTRIDGE also attended a meeting of the Committee on the Education, Arts, and Recreation Theme, composed of representatives of educational arts and other allied activities. At this meeting, the Smithsonian Institution decided that they would not participate because they did not believe that the space provided an appropriate exhibit for their activities. The feeling of the staff of this Commission is also that no ample space is provided for its exhibit. MR. PARTRIDGE suggested the possibility of incorporating the Commission's exhibit as a special feature.

MR. H. P. CAEMMERER, Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission, stated that his Commission is desirous of having a model of the future Washington exhibited at the Fair, and that this would be the central feature of the National Capital's exhibit.

MR. J. M. UPCHURCH of the New York Fair was present and stated that he was sympathetic to such a proposal, but had no authority to speak. At the group meeting Saturday morning to discuss the Education, Arts and Recreation theme, it was agreed that representatives of this Commission and the Fine Arts Commission would submit to MR. LLOYD, Co-Chairman, recommendations for the exhibits, which in turn would be given to the Fair Commissioners for their action.

MAJ. CLARKE stated that the Fine Arts Commission proposed what it did because the Planning Commission was planning on a certain type of exhibit. It was his feeling that the plan of the National Capital should be in a prominent place in the building, and that the work of the two Commissions should be represented in the plan of the National Capital.

MR. UPCHURCH stated that changes are being made in the exhibit building plans, and no commitments can be made yet as to space allotments.

MR. DELANO felt that the Chairman of the Fine Arts Commission should express the views of this Commission.

MOTION unanimously carried that the two Commissions feel that an adequate and carefully prepared model of the Capital City should be appropriately displayed in the Government building at the New York World's Fair, and that, commensurate with the dignity and importance of the National Capital, it should have a place of importance not confused with the several themes into which the Government building is divided.

38. San Francisco World Fair:

The consensus of opinion was that the two Commissions take the same attitude with respect to this exhibit as is taken with respect to the New York World's Fair.

39. Great Plaza Landscape Plan: (See also Par. 44):

MR. W. E. REYNOLDS and MR. LOUIS SIMON of the Procurement Division present for discussion of this subject.

MR. NOLEN stated that this subject was before the Commission about a year ago, at which time a number of letters were exchanged with the Treasury Department, and a plan providing for parking finally approved and submitted to them. The original plan was approved in January 1934. A subsequent plan was developed and approved by the Commission, incorporating a number of changes in the original plan and recommendations concerning the parking of automobiles.

There appeared to be some question as to the actual plan approved by the two Commissions, and the Fine Arts Commission objected to the latest plan of the Commission as to the rows of trees not being on the center of the two pavilions.

Discussion by the two Commissions included the question of whether the construction of the Strauss Memorial should be undertaken at the same time the plaza development is undertaken; opinion of the Treasury Department that the Strauss Memorial should not be undertaken in advance of the plaza development, and the feeling that the two should be undertaken at the same time; previous actions of the Commission with respect to these plans; criticism of MAJ. CLARKE that it is improper to locate the two rows of trees off center of the two pavilions; the opinion of the Fine Arts Commission that they do not want any parking in that area, because this is primarily a park and not a plaza for the parking of automobiles; that the Strauss Memorial people will probably object very strongly to the parking of automobiles around the Memorial.

The Commission agreed that this matter be taken under advisement again and discussed the following morning when the Chairman might be present.

MR. REYNOLDS stated that the Procurement Division is radically opposed to parking in this area, and are going on the theory that the Government is not responsible for providing parking space for Government employees; that the matter of parking in Washington is not an important consideration here because of the cheap taxi service in Washington; that this plan is merely a glorified parking area. The Procurement Division has prepared tentative sketches of this plan and holds the opinion that the development of this Plaza and the Strauss Memorial should be carried on at the same time.

MESSRS. REYNOLDS and SIMON withdrew at this point.

40. Shipstead Regulations and Extension of Area:

MR. NOLEN reported that the Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission has suggested that the Shipstead Act be amended to make it applicable to all parks in the District of Columbia, shown in green on the 1935 Highway Map. The staff does not concur in this view, and considers that it would be very unwise to broaden its scope to this extent.

The Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission distributed printed copies of the Act and the regulations under which it is being administered, which are being distributed to builders and architects.

MAJ. CLARKE stated that the Fine Arts Commission has taken no action on this matter, but doubted the wisdom of proceeding at this time to amend the Act and enlarge its scope because of the question of whether the courts will allow the police power to be extended as far as the amendment contemplated. He expressed the hope, however, that the Commission would have its staff go into the matter.

MOTION unanimously carried that a Committee, consisting of MR. HUBBARD, representing the Park and Planning Commission, and MAJ. CLARKE, representing the Fine Arts Commission, go into the question of extending the scope of the Shipstead Act, and that this Committee make recommendations concerning areas that should be considered for inclusion in the Act; that the staff of this Commission will make a study of the various areas that should be considered for inclusion, and that the Committee of the two Commissions will submit reports for final approval. The two Commissions also instructed that COL. SULTAN be consulted.

MR. NOLEN stated that it had been customary to include any buildings within the areas authorized to be acquired by the Federal Government as being subject to the Shipstead Act, but he and CAPT. ORAM, Executive Officer of the Zoning Commission, feel that they should not be included.

41. Baltimore-Washington-Annapolis Area Report:

MR. NOLEN reported that copies of the report on this project have been sent to members of the Commission. Briefly, this report gives the Commission's regional plan considerable prominence, and perhaps the most important proposal in the report is the one to extend the area of planning jurisdiction. It is also proposed in the report to set up a permanent Coordinating Committee, sponsored by the Maryland State Planning Commission, on which would be representatives of the different agencies involved in coordinating plans for the regional area. The report also goes into the question of preserving the shores of Chesapeake Bay for public bathing purposes, and present gradual elimination of their use by the general public on account of the intensive private development taking place. It is MR. NOLEN'S opinion that some control of this type of development should be set up.

No action.

42. Disease Hazard to Washington's Elms:

MR. A. ROBERT THOMPSON, Forester of the National Park Service, appeared and discussed the diseases that are attacking the elms in and about Washington. He stated that the disease which has appeared in about 50 trees around the Tidal Basin, was discovered several years ago, and appears to attack the trees at the top and go down. The botanical name of this disease is Cephalosporium, and was discovered while the Agriculture Department was studying the Dutch elm disease. Apparently the extreme winter and drought conditions have caused this disease. It seems to be spread by the wind and rain, and carried from tree to tree by the leaves. It has been observed that it is most prevalent where the diseased trees are in contact with one another. No special cure has been devised for this disease, but the Agriculture Department is experimenting with inoculation and pruning methods. Another disease known as the "elm spread" is being found in Washington. No definite means of arresting the spread of these diseases has been discovered, although the Agriculture Department is hopeful of discovering a cure before the disease becomes too prevalent.

MR. THOMPSON submitted the following recommendations:

A request has been transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior for an allotment of $75,000 to be used for determining the extent of the Cephalosporium disease in Washington. The task is relatively slow since cultures have to be made from each sampled tree in the city.

Pending the results of this survey it appears to be good judgment to suspend elm planting in this vicinity at least in quantity.

In view of the diseases of elm which are present now and those which threaten, it is respectively urged that reconsideration be given to plans for the treatment of the Mall. In the writer's opinion, which is backed by the opinion of some of the best plant pathologists in the country, the chances of bringing the present eight rows of Mall elms to maturity are slight.

Authorities recognize the hazard of concentrating any one species in such a planting because of the danger of insect or disease attack. The solution, from this viewpoint, would be to use a relatively large number of species in the treatment of the Mall so that if one or two species are attacked, the general appearance would not be ruined.

He also submitted a brief report, which is attached as APPENDIX D.

COL. SULTAN requested MR. THOMPSON to examine a large tree in Judiciary Square just south of the new police court building on E Street, which appears to be suffering from a disease of some kind.

MR. NOLEN, in reviewing the Commission's action in 1932, concerning the trees in the Mall, stated that the decision was made for the elms because of the feeling that there was so much to be gained by having elms, that it would be better to take a chance for five or ten years by planting elms and "find out what happens".

RECESS: The Commission recessed at 5:30 p.m., and reconvened the following morning at 9:30 a.m.

Copy

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

November 6, 1937.

Memorandum for: Mr. Clarke.

Subject: Reasons for Amending the Shipstead-Luce Act.

When Senate Bill 2400, "An Act to regulate the height, exterior design and construction of private and semi-public buildings in certain areas in the National Capital" was under consideration by the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, I was present and heard several of the Senators say that for the present the Act might take in the central area of Washington and the border of Rock Creek Park and Parkway and that if later on the Act proved beneficial, it could be amended. The Shipstead-Luce Act has been in operation somewhat over seven years, that is, since May 16, 1930. During these seven years it has been found helpful to architects and builders who have, as a rule, adopted an approved type of design, thus aiding in the architectural improvement of the Capital.

It appears to me that when President Washington and his Secretary of State approved the plan of L'Enfant for the Federal City, they had in mind a proper development of the entire District of Columbia, including its architectural appearance. To this end, President Washington himself established a height restriction of 45 feet in the new Capital city. The restriction was suspended under President

Monroe in 1922 but probably would not have been if the growth of the city had been foreseen. It was not until 1910 that an Act was approved establishing height limits in the National Capital. The Zoning Act of the District of Columbia became law March 1, 1920, to take effect August 30, 1920. As you know, the zoning law is limited simply to heights of buildings, use districts and area districts. The Zoning Ordinance does not attempt to regulate the appearance of buildings except as to height and size, nor does it set any standard of architectural fitness to the surroundings.

Thus the necessity of a law to protect the National Capital, such as the Shipstead-Luce Act, became evident. It is of interest to note the first sentence of the Act: "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in view of the provisions of the Constitution respecting the establishment of the seat of the National Government, the duties it imposed upon Congress in connection therewith, and the solicitude shown and the efforts exerted by President Washington in the planning and development of the Capital City, it is hereby declared that such development should proceed along the lines of good order, good taste, and with due regard to the public interests involved, and a reasonable degree of control should be exercised over the architecture of private or semipublic buildings adjacent to public buildings and grounds of major importance."

As above stated, grounds adjacent to the Central Area of Washington and the Rock Creek Park and Potomac Parkway are protected by the provisions of the Act.

It now becomes desirable to give attention to the architectural development of the National Capital generally. The question of amending the Act to include the large circles and certain other large parks not specified in the Act has been thought to be of primary importance. The following instances may be cited as also certain complaints from people not protected by the Shipstead-Luce Act, which have come to my attention:

1. Dupont Circle: Dupont Circle is in a prominent residential section of the city, and the beautiful Dupont Memorial Fountain is located there. The circle itself has recently been improved in connection with the general program to improve the park areas of Washington, but cheap commercial buildings have been allowed around the circle. Also an apartment building has been erected at the corner of Connecticut and New Hampshire Avenues, more than 50 per cent of which, I am told, is on Government property as the building was built to take in the three-foot projection over the building line allowed by the District Building regulations. The apartment was erected over the protest of the Dupont Citizens Association.

Other circles that should be protected architecturally are Scott Circle, Sheridan Circle, Thomas Circle and Washington Circle. In connection with Washington Circle it would seem desirable to amend the Act so as to include Pennsylvania Avenue under the provisions of the Act extending from the White House to Washington Circle and thence to Georgetown.

2. Anacostia Park: During the past year there has been heated controversy over an attempt on the part of a firm to build a large slaughterhouse in the Anacostia Park area at Benning Road, where as many as 5,000 animals would be killed in one week. This means, of course, a certain number of stock pens for the animals. The company now has a small plant at this location. The District Commissioners have found themselves helpless in any attempt to deny the company their application because of the unsatisfactory character of the Zoning Regulations. Secretary of the Interior Ickes had an expert examine the situation and on the basis of this report, he made a violent protest against the enlargement of this slaughterhouse. This is only one of a number of unsightly industries that will be established along the Anacostia Park and other park areas that are without protection of the Shipstead-Luce Act.

3. Fort Dupont Park: The Government has acquired considerable acreage for park development in the vicinity of Fort Dupont, yet it has come to my attention that the Building Inspector recently allowed a $500 shack to be erected on a $1,000 lot near to attractive and substantial residences. This is one of the areas that is being considered for the new location of the Naval Hospital. Residents of that section of the city deplore the fact that they are not given architectural protection under the Shipstead-Luce Act the same as are the people along Rock Creek Park.

4. Montgomery Blair Portal: Congress has enacted that the great entrance to the District on Sixteenth Street shall be called

the Montgomery Blair Portal, the adjacent area of which is not protected by the Shipstead-Luce Act. Residents have complained to me about the cheap construction that has been allowed; they have even threatened to go into court about it but realized that they were helpless so long as an applicant merely meets the requirements of the building regulations. The Building Inspector naturally gives no attention to the aesthetic appearance of the houses erected.

5. Meridian Hill Park: Several times in the past seven years I have received strong complaints about conditions in the vicinity of Meridian Hill Park, on which the Government up to the present time, has spent $1,646,126. The adjacent areas are deteriorating architecturally. There are numerous foreign embassies in this locality and Mr. Totten has tried his best personally to help the Ambassadors in their desire to have the locality protected from unsightly buildings.

A number of other individual cases have arisen that show that the people of the city appreciate the worth of the Shipstead-Luce Act. Mr. Horace W. Peaslee has talked with me several times on the subject and I know he has the backing of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Mr. Peaslee has pointed out the need of better supervision and further restrictions of advertising signs on buildings outside the Shipstead-Luce Act area. Last week Mr. Sandy Wood telephoned and said he thought Massachusetts Avenue should be protected by the Shipstead-Luce Act as strong effort is being made to turn it into a commercial street.

Last week I received a strong complaint from a citizen living on Wisconsin Avenue near the Cathedral against the erection of an apartment building near her residence. The apartment will obstruct her view to the street and will be an eyesore in the community. The applicant is within his rights under the Zoning Regulations to erect the building and intends to do so. I cite this not to suggest that the Shipstead-Luce Act should be amended to take in Wisconsin Avenue but to point out the unfortunate situation that exists here in the National Capital owing to the unsatisfactory character of the Zoning Regulations and the restricted application of the Shipstead-Luce Act. The District Commissioners admit that back in 1920 the most unfortunate mistake was made in zoning the arterial streets commercial as a result of which they now have miles of commercial areas that they find are not needed. They find themselves helpless in attempts to rezone such areas residential due to the unusual requirements of the Zoning Regulations.

To sum up, I suggest that the Shipstead-Luce Act be amended so as to include the following after the words, "The Mall Park System",--and all other public park areas (indicated in green) on the Map of the Permanent System of Highways, District of Columbia, 1935. A copy of the Act is attached hereto.

I am inclosing a copy of an article entitled "Protecting Public Places", from which you will observe that in St. Louis an ordinance has been adopted which requires that all applications for building permits on property within three hundred feet of plazas or parks

must, before issuance, be submitted to the Municipal Art Commission for recommendation as to exterior design and type and texture of materials. Attached hereto is also a copy of the ordinance, which the Mayor of St. Louis sent to me.

Last week I received a complaint (copy attached) from American University Park, showing the trouble the people there are having as a result of lack of architectural control of private buildings.

At its October meeting, the National Capital Park and Planning Commission took cognizance of the need of protecting large park areas by amending the Shipstead-Luce Act map so as to include Judiciary Square. The Square was deemed to be within the area prescribed by the Act, so that official action by Congress in that instance was not considered necessary.

I think all of these complaints and other data justify bringing this matter to the attention of Hon. Kent E. Keller, Chairman of the Committee on the Library, House of Representatives, with a view to having the Shipstead-Luce Act amended.

(Signed) H. L. Saemmerer,

Secretary.

[PUBLIC—No. 231—71ST CONGRESS]

[S. 2400]

An Act To regulate, the height, exterior design, and construction of private and semipublic buildings in certain areas of the National Capital

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in view of the provisions of the Constitution respecting the establishment of the seat of the National Government, the duties it imposed upon Congress in connection therewith, and the solicitude shown and the efforts exerted by President Washington in the planning and development of the Capital City, it is hereby declared that such development should proceed along the lines of good order, good taste, and with due regard to the public interests involved, and a reasonable degree of control should be exercised over the architecture of private or semipublic buildings adjacent to public buildings and grounds of major importance. To this end, hereafter when application is made for permit for the erection or alteration of any building, any portion of which is to front or abut upon the grounds of the Capitol, the grounds of the White House, the portion of Pennsylvania Avenue extending from the Capitol to the White House, Rock Creek Park, the Zoological Park, the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, Potomac Park, The Mall Park System, and public buildings adjacent thereto, or abutting upon any street bordering any of said grounds or parks, the plans therefor, so far as they relate to height and appearance, color, and texture of the materials of exterior construction, shall be submitted by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to the Commission of Fine Arts; and the said commission shall report promptly to said commissioners its recommendations, including such changes, if any, as in its judgment are necessary to prevent reasonably avoidable impairment of the public values belonging to such public building or park; and said commissioners shall take such action as shall, in their judgment, effect reasonable compliance with such recommendation: *Provided*, That if the said Commission of Fine Arts fails to report its approval or disapproval of such plans within thirty days, its approval thereof shall be assumed and a permit may be issued.

SEC. 2. Said Commissioners of the District of Columbia, in consultation with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, as early as practicable after approval of this Act, shall prepare plats defining the areas within which application for building permits shall be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for its recommendations.

Approved, May 16, 1930.

and all other public park areas (indicated in green) on the Map of the Permanent System of Highways, District of Columbia, 1945,

Ordinance 41024

An ordinance to amend Ordinance number Forty thousand nine hundred and seventy five, approved January 12, 1937, by repealing Sections 24, 25 and 27-a relating to the Municipal Art Commission and enacting in lieu thereof new sections to be known as Sections 24, 25, 27-a and 27-b, and containing an emergency clause.

Be it ordained by the City of St. Louis, as follows:

Section One. Section 24 of Ordinance Number Forty thousand Nine Hundred and seventy-five, approved January 12, 1937 is hereby repealed, and a new section to be known by the same number is enacted in lieu thereof, reading as follows: Section 24. There is hereby created a commission to be known as the Municipal Art Commission, which shall be composed of nine members, as follows: the President of the Board of Public Service, or his duly appointed representative, ex-officio; the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, ex-officio; the Director of the City Art Museum, ex-officio; the Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety of the Board of Aldermen, ex-officio; and one architect; one painter; one sculptor; one landscape architect. The four last named members herein designated shall be appointed by the Mayor. The said Municipal Art Commission is hereby made a part of the Division of Building and Inspection in the Department of Public Safety.

Section Two. Section 25 of Ordinance Number Forty Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-five, approved January 12, 1937, is hereby repealed, and a new sectiou to be known by the same number is enacted in lieu thereof, reading as follows: Section 25. Of the four members first appointed by the Mayor one shall be appointed to serve for one year, one for two years and two for three years, and after the expiration of their respective terms of office their successors shall be appointed each for a term of three years.

Section Three. Section 27-a of Ordinance number forty thousand nine hundred and seventy-five, approved January 12, 1937, is hereby repealed, and a new section to be known by the same number is enacted in lieu thereof, reading as follows: Section 27-a—SAME. The development of Public Parks and Plazas in the City of St. Louis and the property surrounding and in the neighborhood of same should proceed along the lines of good order, good taste and with due regard to the public interests involved, and that a reasonable degree of control should be exercised over the character and design of public, private and semi-public buildings bordering upon or adjacent to or within 300 feet of and when visible from said public parks and plazas and each of them. To this end, therefore, hereafter when application is made for a permit for the erection or alteration of any building or other fixture, any portion of which is to front or abut upon or be located within 300 feet of and when visible from Union Station, the new addition to the Post Office, the present Post Office on Eighteenth Street, the Civil Courts Building, the City Hall, the Municipal Courts Building, the Old Court House, the Main Public Library, or any of the public parks or plazas in the City of St. Louis, the plans therefor, so far as they relate to the general exterior appearance, design, color and texture of surface materials of exterior construction, shall be submitted by the Building Commissioner to the Municipal Art Commission for its recommendations before any permit is issued therefor, and the said Municipal Art Commission shall report promptly to said Building Commissioner its recommendations, including such changes, if any, as in its judgment are necessary to reasonably prevent impairment of the public values applying to such public buildings or public parks or plazas. Such recommendations must be made within a period of twenty days from submission, and failure to make such recommendations within that period shall make the decision of the commission unnecessary; provided upon the application of the Municipal Art Commission, the Building Commissioner may extend this period in order to permit a complete investigation whenever necessary.

Section Four. Section 27-b—SAME —No construction in the City of St. Louis of any building, arch, gate, fence

or other fixture which is to be paid for either wholly or in part by the City of St. Louis shall be begun unless the exterior design thereof shall have been submitted to the Municipal Art Commission and recommendations made by it, except as herein provided, before the final approval thereof by the officer or other person having authority to contract therefor. The approval of the Municipal Art Commission shall be required in respect to all fixtures or structures belonging to any person or corporation which shall be erected upon or extending over any highway, stream, lake, square, park or other public place within the City, except as provided in this Chapter. In deeds or leases for land made by the City of St. Louis restrictions may be imposed requiring that the design and location of structures to be altered or erected thereon shall be first approved by the Municipal Art Commission. Nothing requiring the recommendation or approval of the Art Commission as in this and the preceding sections provides shall be changed in exterior design or location without its approval; provided in case of dispute the Board of Public Service shall be the final arbiter and its decision shall prevail. If the Municipal Art Commission fails to act upon any matter submitted to it within twenty days after such submission, its approval of the matter submitted shall be presumed; provided, upon the application of the Municipal Art Commission the officer or other person having authority to contract therefor may extend this period in order to permit a complete investigation whenever necessary.

Section Five. This ordinance being deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public welfare, an emergency is hereby declared to exist within the meaning of Section Twenty of Article Four of the Charter of the City of St. Louis, and this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

Approved: March 30/1937.

Protecting Public Places

By John A. Bryan

Architect; Chairman, Public Buildings Committee,
St. Louis Chamber of Commerce

Bone-Moeller Photo.

St. Louis has made a big investment in a civic center it now proposes to protect

WITH the cessation of the World War nearly every city of any size in the nation was considering the creation of a civic center to be built around a war memorial. Some of those projects never got beyond the preliminary sketch stage, while others after prolonged agitation have become realities.

St. Louis, Missouri, was one of the older cities to set about the task in a really impressive and wholehearted way. Many blocks (nine and one-half to be exact) of old buildings in the downtown area were condemned and cleared off, opening up a level space from the Public Library on Olive Street to the City Hall and Municipal Courts Building three blocks to the south, and extending east and west from Twelfth Boulevard to Fifteenth Street. Around this memorial plaza other public buildings have recently been erected, namely, the Civil Courts Building, Municipal Auditorium, the new Federal Building, and on the plaza the Soldiers' Memorial Building.

All of this activity represents an investment of municipal and federal funds in excess of thirty million dollars. It was early recognized that the setting being created would prove most attractive to private enterprise, but that the greatest benefit to all concerned would result from the proper harmonizing of the design of private and public construction. The zoning regulation, generally, did not provide protection for a situation such as is found in the creation of the civic center, as it only regulated the use of land, the size of buildings and the open space about structures. The one exception to this influence of zoning laws on design is in the downtown districts, where the height regulations, through the provision for set-backs, do affect some phases of design.

The problem then confronting St. Louis was how best to secure the fullest protection for the huge investment of public funds in the development of one of the most outstanding groups of public buildings to be found anywhere within the nation. As a step in this effort to promote harmony in the surroundings of the plaza, an ordinance was adopted in the spring of 1937, through the cooperation of the city administration, outdoor advertisers, labor organizations and business and civic groups, which prohibited the erection of further signs and similar structures around the Memorial and Union Station Plazas.

St. Louis $30,000,000 Memorial Plaza. On the far side are the surroundings shown on next page.

St. Louis Now Protected

This initial step was not sufficient, however, to cover all of the requirements needed to protect these municipal developments, and a second ordinance was adopted which required that all applications for building permits, affecting property around the plazas and parks of St. Louis, before being issued by the Building Commissioner, should first be referred to the Municipal Art Commission for recommendation as to the exterior design of the proposed struc-

ture, and the type and texture of material going into the facades of buildings. With these two measures in effect, it is believed that harmonious development is assured. Regulations designed to promote aesthetic and cultural phases of city building are coming to be looked upon, more and more, with natural and ordinary rights to proceed unmolested."

This was in answer to the argument that those persons who didn't like the inharmonious development could look the other way.

There were many instances of offensive structures on the Memorial and Union Station Plazas in St. Louis. It is the intention to use the eminent domain powers of the community to remove these so that the great interest of the public will be preserved and enhanced. The civic center was paid for out of bond issue funds and therefore every citizen of St. Louis has a stake in the problem. From this

Courtesy St. Louis Post-Dispatch

St. Louis' new ordinance, passed in January, extends the scope of the Municipal Art Commission over building permits within 300 feet of plazas and parks.

favor by the courts. A recent decision of the Indiana Supreme Court said:

"Under a liberalized construction of the general welfare purposes of State and Federal Constitutions there is a trend in the modern decisions (which we approve) to foster, under the police power, an aesthetic and cultural side of municipal development. To prevent a thing that offends the sense of sight in the same manner as a thing that offends the senses of hearing and smelling."

And Chief Judge Pound, New York Court of Appeals, in 1932 said, when handing down the unanimous decision of that court in a case involving certain uses of private property adjacent to a new public parkway:

"Beauty may not be a queen but she is not an outcast beyond the pale of protection or respect. She may at least shelter herself under the wing of safety, morality or decency."

Only last year the Supreme Court of Massachusetts declared:

"For such persons who strongly wish to avoid intrusion there is no escape; they cannot enjoy their

Civic Beauty

Under the new ordinance which Mayor Dickmann signed last week to extend the scope of the Municipal Art Commission, St. Louis will bring nearer to realization its dreams of beautiful parks and plazas.

To the General Council on Civic Needs, which for four years has sought to have such a measure enacted, we offer our sincere thanks and appreciation; its perseverance, as well as its vision and wisdom, is most commendable.

The new measure requires that all applications for building permits on property within three hundred feet of plazas or parks must, before issuance, be submitted to the commission for recommendation as to exterior design and type and texture of materials.

Heretofore the commission has had no power to make such recommendations, save on municipal buildings, it is now in position to prevent the beauty of the design and construction of civic buildings from being emasculated by the erection of structures of inharmonious design or material on adjacent property.

This is of particular interest and import in regard to Memorial Plaza, which is emerging from a dream of beauty into an actuality. "A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

St. Louis Commerce

angle, the effort to condemn the existing inharmonious structures should be sustained inasmuch as their owners have not contributed any more than other owners throughout the community.

St. Louis secured its comprehensive development through the organization of the Plaza Commission, comprising the leading architectural firms of the community. It would seem that we have now reached the point in American municipal progress where trained architects are to find a place of power in city government just as engineers and physicians have been doing increasingly in the past fifty years.

As for the architectural design of buildings in public places, the question should not be subject to [illegible]

4524 Verplanck Place NW
Washington, D. C.
Oct. 20, 1937

Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Building,
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Inferior Dwelling under Construction in American University Park.

Dear Sirs:

A permit has been granted to Karl W. Slocks, 7101 - 8th Street NW, to construct a $3000 frame dwelling at 4525 Verplanck Place, NW. The builder on record in the District Building is B. S. Kemp, 11420 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, Md.

This dwelling, a modernistic bungalow, is already under construction and is in a neighborhood of dwellings, Georgian in architecture, ranging in value from $10,000 to $15,000. The one-story structure is rectangular in shape, has a flat roof and no basement. Whether any other material will be used over the asbestos insulation is not known. Up to the present time the outside framework only has been erected.

It is understood that the W. C. and A. N. Miller Co. offered their architectural services free to Mr. Slocks to induce him to change his style to bring it into keeping with the other dwellings in the neighborhood. The W. C. and A. N. Miller Co. are interested because they own the adjoining lot to 4525 Verplanck Place and have also built seven houses on the opposite side of the 4500 block of Verplanck Place, one of which is mine. They have also built a number of other houses in this immediate neighborhood.

It is hoped that the Commission of Fine Arts may find it possible to give this problem some consideration. The suggestion to bring it before the Commission was made by Mr. Charles Bittinger, former president of the Arts Club.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Ralph F. Haupt

Mrs. Ralph F. Haupt